

In the Claims:

1. (Presently amended) A MHC class II antigenic peptides comprising
 - (a) ~~at least~~ the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs. 49 to 57 and SEQ ID NOs. 103 to 122, or
 - (b) ~~at least~~ the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs. 49 to 57 and SEQ ID NOs. 103 to 122, with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of a corresponding sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs. 1 to 39 and SEQ ID NOs. 58 to 102.
2. (Presently amended) A MHC class II antigenic peptide comprising
 - (a) ~~at least~~ the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 49, or
 - (b) ~~at least~~ the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 49 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of a corresponding sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs. 1 to 3.
3. (Presently amended) A MHC class II antigenic peptide comprising
 - (a) ~~at least~~ the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 103, or
 - (b) ~~at least~~ the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 103 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NOs. 58 and 59.
4. (Presently amended) A MHC class II antigenic peptide comprising
 - (a) ~~at least~~ the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 104, or
 - (b) ~~at least~~ the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 104 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 60.

5. (Presently amended) A MHC class II antigenic peptide comprising
(a) ~~at least~~ the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 105,
or
(b) ~~at least~~ the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 105
with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of
SEQ ID NO. 61.

6. (Presently amended) A MHC class II antigenic peptide comprising
(a) ~~at least~~ the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 106,
or
(b) ~~at least~~ the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 106
with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of
SEQ ID NO. 62.

7. (Presently amended) A MHC class II antigenic peptide comprising
(a) ~~at least~~ the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 107,
or
(b) ~~at least~~ the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 107
with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of
SEQ ID NO. 63.

8. (Presently amended) A MHC class II antigenic peptide comprising
(a) ~~at least~~ the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 50,
or
(b) ~~at least~~ the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 50
with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of
SEQ ID NO. 5.

9. (Presently amended) A MHC class II antigenic peptide comprising

(a) ~~at least the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 108,~~
or

(b) ~~at least the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 108~~
with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of
SEQ ID NOs. 64 to 67.

10. (Presently amended) A MHC class II antigenic peptide comprising

(a) ~~at least the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 109,~~
or

(b) ~~at least the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 109~~
with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of
SEQ ID NO. 68.

11. (Presently amended) A MHC class II antigenic peptide comprising

(a) ~~at least the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 110,~~
or

(b) ~~at least the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 110~~
with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of
SEQ ID NOs. 69 and 70.

12. (Presently amended) A MHC class II antigenic peptide comprising

(a) ~~at least the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 111,~~
or

(b) ~~at least the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 111~~
with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of
SEQ ID NO. 72.

13. (Presently amended) A MHC class II antigenic peptide comprising

(a) ~~at least the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 112,~~
or

(b) ~~at least the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 112 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 73.~~

14. (Presently amended) ~~A~~ The MHC class II antigenic peptide according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~ linked to a MHC class II molecule.

15. (Presently amended) ~~An~~ purified antibody composition which is selectively reactive with ~~to~~ a MHC class II antigenic peptide according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 13.~~

16. (Presently amended) ~~a~~ A nucleic acid molecule encoding a peptide or polypeptide according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 14.~~

17. (Original) A recombinant nucleic acid construct comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 16 operably linked to an expression vector.

18. (Presently amended) A ~~host~~ cell containing the nucleic acid construct according to claim 17.

19-22. (Canceled).

23. (Presently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a MHC class II antigenic peptide according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 13, an antibody according to claim 15, or a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs 40 to 48 and SEQ ID NOs 123 to 141, and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.~~

24. (Canceled).

25. (Presently amended) A method for diagnosing RA comprising detecting in a patient serum sample the presence of one or more ~~The use of the MHC class II antigenic~~

peptides according to claim 1, ~~wherein the antigenic peptide is a marker for erosive and/or non-erosive RA.~~

26. (Canceled).

27. (Canceled).

28. (Presently amended) ~~The use of a polypeptide~~ A method for diagnosing RA comprising detecting in a patient serum sample the presence of one or more peptides selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs 40 to 48 and SEQ. ID NOs 123 to 141 as a marker for RA, preferably for erosive and/or non-erosive RA.

29. (Canceled).

30. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs 40 to 48 and SEQ ID NOs. 123 to 141, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

31. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody according to claim 15 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.